

This comment is in regard to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in ET Docket 03-104, published May 23, 2003. It concerns the potential establishment and rules to govern utility power companies being allowed to distribute Internet services over their power distribution lines.

It is a BAD, BAD concept and I am firmly against it.

Locally, the amateur radio community here in northern Cincinnati fought what we felt was a power company distribution line problem for a long, long time. It involved an interaction of a local radio station (WLW) and Cinergy distribution lines radiating RF signals in the amateur radio (and other) bands. For over seven years the problem existed and was getting worse.

Not until a group of us organized and intensively worked on fixing the problem (with the assistance of the ARRL and WLW) would Cinergy listen seriously to our case. We had to actively fight uphill for well over a year to FINALLY get the utility to fix their 345 kV distribution lines. FCC special counsel Riley Hollingsworth had to actually send them a letter to act as the required dynamite to get action. They just wouldn't budge until Mr. Hollingsworth got directly involved.

The proposed distribution of Internet services via power lines is a TERRIBLE concept even if amateur radio is left out of the equation. The potential for a re-occurrence of our local problem with RF energy being radiated and disabling a widespread area of Internet users ALONE is bad enough to dump the idea. Even when things are working as designed the resulting hundreds of miles of power lines functioning as antennas all radiating signals in the 2-200 megahertz range would effectively wipe out many licensed radio services that currently exist.

The chances that public safety services (police, fire and emergency management agencies), let alone the amateur radio services that supplement them in times of extreme need, could be directly interfered with makes me cringe with fear. This is a Pandora's box of troubles waiting to be opened.

WITH THE FREQUENTLY PROVEN LESS THAN STELLAR RECORD OF COOPERATION THAT MANY UTILITY COMPANIES HAVE IN FIXING EXISTING PROBLEMS HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY THINK OF HEAPING SUCH A LARGE TECHNOLOGICAL BURDEN ON THE WHOLE INDUSTRY?

This is a BAD idea from the start because of conceptual design problems now and the eventual political considerations of getting things improved later when they don't work (and all the money is already invested by then).

The FCC won't be able to hire enough people to fill the enforcement division if this idea takes root.

To me, the question is NOT how to control/regulate it but rather should it be allowed to exist at all TO BE regulated.

I ask you to drop this idea like a technologically rotten hot potato.

Sincerely,

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